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# Sierra Slayer Suspect Was Paroled State Home Inmate

While Sierra county authorities yesterday continued investigation of the gunshot deaths of four persons at the Bradley-Turner mine, Dr. Fred O. Butler, medical superintendent of the Sonoma State Home, identified Charles Scanlan Jr., 21, suspected slayer of his mother, father and another mineworker, as a paroled inmate of the Eldridge institution.

Dr. Butler said hospital records revealed that young Scanlan had been an epileptic since he was four years of age, and that he was committed to the Sonoma State Home from Alameda county in 1935. He was paroled in 1938, being released to the custody of his mother.

Young Scanlan previously had been identified in news dispatches as a former Santa Rosa resident, but usual sources of information here failed to confirm this report. Dr. Butler said the boy had suffered mental "blow-ups" several times during the time he was under treatment at the institution.

Victims of the tragedy included Charles Scanlan, 50, Mrs. Scanlan, 40, and Avard Boyd Snyder, a welder employed at the mine. Possibility that all four had been murdered by a fifth party who escaped was voiced by Miss Ethel Scanlan of Berkeley, a sister of the elder Scanlan.

The Berkeley woman said she is convinced her brother, sister-in-law and nephew, as well as Snyder, were victims of a murderer who slew them during the theft of gold concentrates gathered during a cleanup at the mine.

Miss Scanlan told A. M. Holmes of Nevada City, mortician in whose charge the bodies have been, of her suspicions and indicated she would institute an independent investigation by employing one or more private detectives.

### Sheriff Gives Views

In the meanwhile Sheriff W. D. Johnson, who with District Attorney A. J. Just, had charge of the county's investigation, said there is no evidence to support the theory the four victims at the mine were slain during a cleanup robbery. He said it was apparent the elder Scanlan and Snyder were in the cleanup house preparing to gather the concentrates, but had not yet done so, when they were shot down.

The sheriff said he has questioned Mrs. Snyder, wife of one of the victims, concering reports there had been a fourth man at the mine. The wife of the slain welder told him her understanding is that a man who had been employed to assist her husband and Scanlan at the mine had quit and left the area more than two weeks ago. She resides in North San Juan.

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